MONTEREY NEWS

DECEMBER 1991

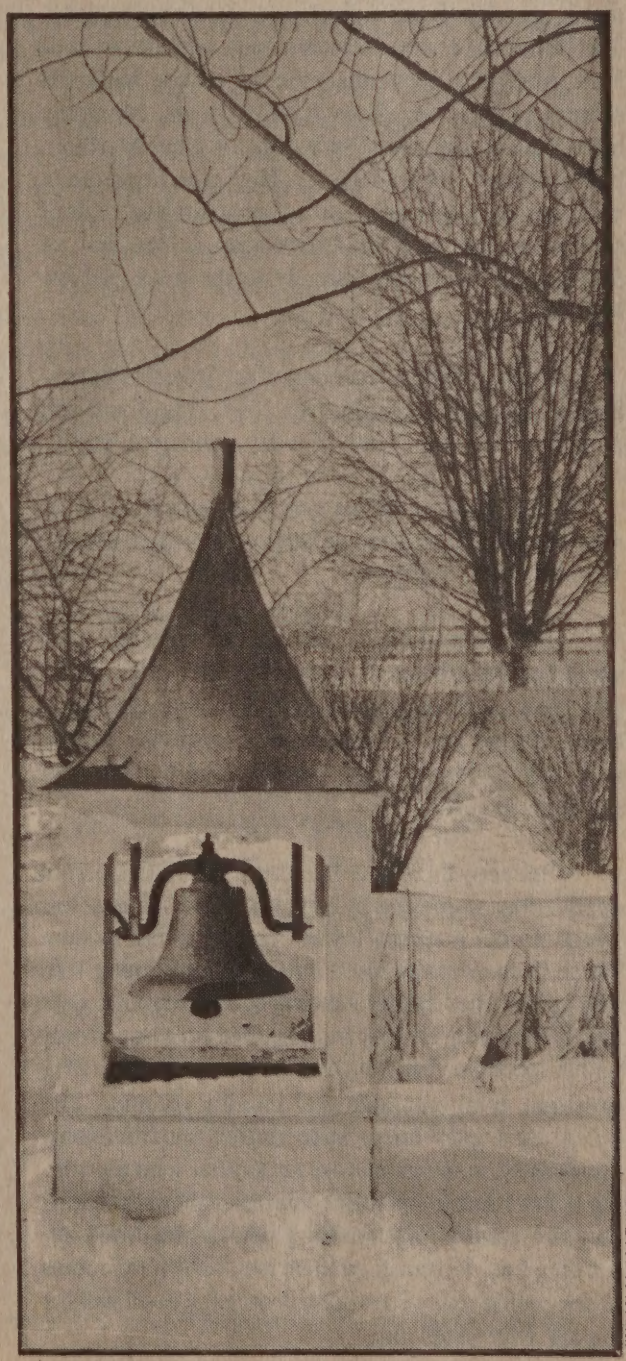
TOWN NEWS

The Selectmen have given the Monterey Land Owners' Association permission to post large signs on the roads entering Monterey warning hunters that written permission from landowners is required for hunting on private land. At the same time, the Selectmen stated their strong endorsement of the purposes of the Association. (For more information, see the following article on the Monterey Landowners' Association.) Hunters are also reminded of a policy established in 1988 prohibiting hunting or camping, including the use of trailers, on any town-owned lands. These lands include town beaches, parks, cemeteries and vehicle turn-arounds.

In conjunction with the Highway Department, the Selectmen have been working on a plan for fencing the Disposal Area. Specifications for the fence are as follows: 9-gauge fencing, 57 feet long by 6 feet high, with barbed wire top and a 20 foot cantilevered gate. Bill Bohn reported that three bids were received: Berkshire Fence of Pittsfield, $2,500; Cheshire Fence Company of Cheshire, $2,750; and Donovan Construction of Pittsfield, $2,900. Berkshire Fence will get the job.

In other news about the Transfer Station, the Selectmen told Wayne Burkhart, Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, that the recent change in the paper recycling rules has resulted in numerous violations of the recycling bylaw. Violators will receive form letters warning them to correct the problems.

PLEASE NOTE: The Selectmen have announced that the Monterey Disposal Area will be closed on Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1. Regular Disposal Area hours will be in effect on Saturday, December 28, Sunday, December 29, Saturday, January 4 and Sunday, January 5. Just in case you were wondering,



SUSAN McALLESTER

Transfer Station and Disposal Area are both synonyms for what we used to call the dump.

The Selectmen announced that the bid for a four-wheel-drive pickup truck and equipment for the Highway Department has been awarded to Funk & Gallup GMC, Inc. of Copake, New York at the bid price of $21,847. In another Highway Department matter, the Selectmen have commended Highway Superintendent Don Amstead on the installation of traffic advisory signs on New Marlboro Road. The new signs post a 35 m.p.h. speed limit and indicate where the road narrows. The Board has reached an agreement with the town of New Marlboro about the plowing of the half-mile section of New Marlboro Road from the Monterey town line to the school bus stop for New Marlboro homeowners. The Monterey Highway Department will plow the road section in exchange for five loads of sand to be delivered by J. Donovan & Son, Inc. of Stockbridge and billed directly to the town of New Marlboro.

There will be no meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 30, 1991. The Board will meet the following week, Monday, January 6, 1992.

The Board of Selectmen will sponsor a Christmas tree burning at Greene Park on Saturday, January 11, from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

At the special town meeting on November 16, a small turnout of voters approved every item on the warrant, including a new bylaw regulating alarm systems, joining the 911 Emergency Response System and appointment of an animal control officer for nuisance wildlife.

Recently there have been several building permit applications requested by homeowners who have lots which do not conform to the current zoning bylaws. These properties are known as non-conforming lots. The bylaw specifically states that any structure on a non-conforming lot may be expanded or enlarged only with a special permit, and then by now more than 25% in height, total area and total interior volume. The bylaw then goes on to state further specifications. Apparently, many people are unfamiliar with the zoning bylaws and are therefore confused about problems they are having with building permits for non-conforming lots. Fortunately, there are about 1000 copies of the zoning bylaws available free at the town hall for anyone who needs one.

The following building permit applications were approved: Maryellen Brown, for a deck addition to her Hupi Road home, submitted by Doug Brown; Rodney Palmer for the construction of a storage shed on his Route 23 property; Julie Shapiro and Alan Dean, for the construction of a tennis court at their Hupi Road property; Jules and Barbara Dahlman of West Orange, New Jersey, for the construction of a new, single-family house on Tyringham Road, submitted by Donald McCarthy and Mickey Jervas of Southern Berkshire Homes, the contractors.

— Maggie Leonard

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MLS

Town of Monterey
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

•

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 5, 1991, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall (Grange #291) on application of the Stevens Lake Association, Inc., for approval of the definitive subdivision of land located in the town of Monterey, prepared by Kelly, Granger, Parsons & Associates, dated September 27, 1991, entitled "Monterey Woods."

—Monterey Planning Board
Wayne Burkhart, Chairman

CHURCH NEWS

Can it be Advent already? The days slip through our fingers like water. Just last week it was spring, only yesterday the summer sun filled our days, and now autumn is gone and we're looking forward to Christmas. Just last month we were younger than we are now. Echoes of an old Rod McKuen song: "We've all grown older, Come see where we have been, Out here rusting in the rain."

Such thoughts can lead to a melancholy heart, but that's not the purpose of Advent. The voice of God whispers in the evening of the year: HOPE. That's what Advent is for: HOPE and her sister, JOY.

— Mitchell Finley

Yes, indeed, that *is* what Advent is all about: HOPE and JOY *and* their siblings PEACE and LOVE. During the Advent season, our church family will once again celebrate the lighting of Advent candles in worship and our meditative themes will focus on the HOPE brought by the angel Gabriel, Mary's JOY, Joseph's LOVE and the commission of PEACE shared with the shepherds. We invite you to deepen your spirit of HOPE, JOY, LOVE and PEACE during this wondrous holiday season by sharing with us during our Sunday morning celebration and in our other seasonal celebrations also:

Advent Gathering: The whole family is invited to come to the parsonage on Saturday, December 7 between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. for a special time of fellowship. Hearty soup and delicious holiday treats will be served as we gather to share each other's company.

Advent Worship: On Sunday, December 15, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. we'll gather in the church social room to make holiday crafts and decorations for our "Jesse Tree." This program is for both adults and children and promises to be a creative and fun time.

Christmas Caroling: Let's spread the joy of Christmas through song. Come to the church at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 22 and we'll travel throughout the town singing Christmas carols. Then it's hot chocolate and cookies back at the church.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Our celebration begins at 7:00 p.m. for young, old and in-between. Through carols, candlelight and readings we'll share the story of Christmas and experience the mystery of our faith.

As we move closer and closer to Christmas Day, the following words by Mitchell Finley take on great significance:

Christmas is about a love that shows itself in giving. Just as Jesus is God's gift of love at Christmas, so our Christmas giving should express our love. What this means is: Christmas is about giving, not about buying...

Whoa! What was that? Let's say it again, slowly: Christmas is about giving, not buying. Ponder this, pray over it and brace yourself. You'll get little support if you decide to take this conviction to heart. A secularized society will jab a rude finger in your chest and say: "By what authority do you do these things?"

The practical implications are many: making at least some gifts with your own hands instead of swooping down the aisle at Mega-Market; giving the gift of yourself and your time instead of giving stuff; giving home-baked goodies instead of half-baked gimmicks. You get the idea.

Once you decide that Christmas is for giving, not buying, your Christmas will begin to mean what it's supposed to mean: love. And your Christmas will feel like love.

And to that I say: AMEN!

— Cliff Aerie

Jesus is the light of Advent
Shining through the darkness of night.
Born a tiny babe in a stable
Underneath a star, O so bright.
Shepherds, Angels, Kings
Before the Christ Child bow.
Jesus is God's gift of Light.
—Our Advent Song

COME SHARE THE SPIRIT!

The Monterey United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00
(childcare available)

MONTEREY LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NOTES

Shotgun deer season begins on Monday, December 2 and runs through Wednesday, December 11, Sundays not included. Primitive firearms season goes from December 16 to December 18.

Members of the Monterey Landowners' Association, an organization formed in 1985 to encourage responsible hunting practices, have erected signs at entry points to Monterey, reminding hunters to get written permission before hunting on private lands. At their November 12 meeting, the Monterey Selectmen gave their approval for the temporary signs and, additionally, stated their strong endorsement of the purposes of the Association.

Members of the Association (now representing about half the year-round population of Monterey) post their boundaries with custom-designed No Trespassing signs. A hunter who receives permission from a landowner receives a signed permit to carry with him, plus a placard to place on the dashboard of his vehicle. The landowner keeps a record of the hunter's name, hunting license number and vehicle license number. This system makes it easier for Environmental Police Officers to identify violators and trespassers on private lands.

Membership in the MLA costs $5 and entitles a member to five No Trespassing signs and an unlimited supply of permit forms and placards. Extra No Trespassing signs can be purchased at the Monterey General Store. Further information about joining the MLA can be obtained by calling Ellen Pearson at 528-1988.

All hunters and landowners (MLA members or not) should be aware of the statement included annually in the Abstracts of the Fish and Wildlife Laws:

A hunting, fishing or trapping license is not a permit to trespass on private land, posted or not. Remember your privilege to enter on private land is a courtesy extended to you by the owner. Practice courtesy yourself if you want to continue hunting and fishing.

Two other noteworthy additions to the Abstracts follow: (1) A hunter education program provides free classes on hunting, bowhunting and trapping for ages 10 and up. For information, call (617) 727-3623. (2) Road-killed deer may be kept by a Massachusetts driver or passenger of the vehicle killing the deer if the incident is reported immediately to Law Enforcement at (800) 632-8075 and the deer is tagged at MDFW or a Division of Law Enforcement Office within 24 hours and a free permit issued. Copies of the Abstracts are available free at the town hall.

To report a hunting violation, call the Division of Law Enforcement at (800) 632-8075. Monterey's game warden is Officer Terry Whitney (car code "Charlie 23").

Simple trespass can be handled by local or state police. Monterey officers can be reached through the Great Barrington dispatcher (528-0306), as can Officer Craig Scott, Great Barrington's game warden, who sometimes responds to calls in Monterey. State police dispatch phone is 243-0600. If radio contact between the Division and South County game wardens fails, try the Berkshire County Dispatch Center (442-0512) and ask for officers by name (not car code).

Best wishes for a safe deer season, and hoping nobody has to call anybody.

— Ellen Pearson

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Tuesday-7:30-4:00
Thursday-7:30-4:00
Friday-7:30-4:00
Saturday-8:30-2:30

Closed Wednesdays

On Route 23 betweenMonterey center and Butternut

CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Welcome to the four new Parent-to Parent volunteers who have joined our large group in assisting area families. They are Stephanie Blumenthal, Sand, Boylston, Ann O. Lang and Janice Welcome.

The playgroups are sponsoring a Christmas raffle of 26 different items to help with the heating costs at our eleven playgroup sites. Tickets are available at each playgroup and at CHP. The drawing will be held at the Christmas party at the Great Barrington playgroup on December 12. Many thanks to everyone who donated raffle items.

Diane Carlo of the American Red Cross has been visiting the playgroups and presenting a program about the importance of car seats and seat belts. We appreciate her time and expertise on this very important subject.

Early intervention is an important part of the Children's Health Program. We have professionals who can help families concerned about their child's development or families with a handicapped child under the age of three. The service has no direct cost to the family. For more information, call 528-9311 and ask for Delinda Anderson.

Two new additions to the Parent-to-Parent book lending library are easy and quick to read and may help a lot of parents. They are: *One Minute Father* and *One Minute Mother*, by Spencer Johnson, M.D. You will learn about one minute goals, one minute praisings and one minute reprimands, while on your way to becoming a super parent.

A holiday note from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County, New York: The best gift you can give your child is self esteem. Praise children for their accomplishments. Children need to know that the significant people in their lives are proud of them. You can give the message with hugs and kisses as well as with words. While many of us are free with praise at the obvious times — a baby's first steps or a young child's pretty picture — praise is important at less obvious times, too, for example, when a messy child shows the slightest sign of neatness. It doesn't matter how the accomplishment stacks up in relation to other children. The important thing is that the child accomplished something.

Have a happy, safe holiday!

— Claudette Callahan

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Route 23 Monterey

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met on November 6 for a hobby and craft night. Members told about a variety of interesting hobbies and brought in samples of their work.

Lecturer Mary Wallace reported on the recent Massachusetts State Grange meeting in Plymouth.

The fund-raising raffle proved very successful. The Grange thanks everyone who helped, especially those who donated prizes: the Monterey General Store, Wards' Nursery, Price Chopper, Big Y, Domaney's Liquors, the Monterey Grange and Anne Vickerman. Raffle winners were Donna Trudeau, Irene Edwards, Josephine Oronsky, Louise Robitalle, Walter Deane and Ron Saunders.

The Grange was invited to Traveling Gavel night at Huntington.

Tillie Butler and Mary Wallace attended a meeting of the National Grange at Burlington, Vermont on November 16.

The Grange met again on November 20 for an educational program in charge of Kam Tierian and committee. In honor of Thanksgiving, members were asked to bring in something about turkeys.

Deputy Peter Martin presented the following awards: First prize for a conservation exhibit at the Monterey Post Office ot Eleanor Kimberley and Florence Brown, awards for her photographs to Eleanor Kimberley, a performance award for the community service contest to Mary Wallace, and second prize for an exhibit in the membership contest to Tillie Butler and Mary Wallace.

The next meeting will be December 4, with the theme of Preparing for Christmas. Members are asked to bring in articles for the cheer boxes.

— Mary Wallace

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MONTEREY ROUND TABLE

On Tuesday, November 12, the Monterey Round Table held its third monthly meeting at the home of Alice Howell and Walter Andersen. Sixteen people were present. Monterey's community spirit, as always, rises to meet the needs of the community in unique ways. Lenny Weber sees modern society as oppressive in that it "pushes people apart" and predicts that the Round Table could become a vehicle for bringing people together to help each other solve their problems.

Judy Bach has been facilitating a process with the group to define the Round Table's mission: personal goals, community goals and goals that go beyond the community. But the impulse to move into action has been so strong that the group has decided to begin working on issues at the same time it is defining its identity. As reported in the November issue of the *Monterey News*, the group's first project is to support the Community Dinners with a "jump start" in this time of transition following the death of Milly Walsh.

The November meeting addressed the issue of Maureen and John Congdon's plight as they struggle against foreclosure on their Mountain Trails Bed and Breakfast. Their initial agreement with Great Barrington Savings Bank was contingent on the sale of their property in Connecticut. This was four years ago, when real estate prices peaked. Subsequently, real estate prices dropped greatly and the Congdons took a significant loss when their property finally sold this year, leaving them unable to meet the terms of their agreement with the bank. John Congdon's poignant comment, "Every time there is a knock at the door, I wonder if it is the sheriff coming to foreclose or people wanting to rent a room," stimulated the group to brainstorm about ways to help the Congdons. At the end of an hour, what had looked like a hopeless situation no longer seemed hopeless. The Congdons had a number of ideas to pursue, and Maureen said, "I had given up, but this has given me courage." Everyone felt the inspiration of shared problem solving and caring for one's neighbor.

Everyone in Monterey is invited to participate in the Round Table and the heartfelt experience of working together as a community. There will be no December meeting because of the holidays, so the next meeting will be on January 15, 1992, at 7:30 p.m. at Rosecroft, the home of Alice Howell and Walter Andersen at the corner of Beartown Mountain Road and Hupi Road. If you need further directions, please call Judy Bach at 528-9636.

— Angie Sherrard

MONTEREY WILDLIFE SURVEY NEWS

Raptors on Lake Garfield: Bill Bohn reports seeing a bald eagle flying over the lake several times this past summer.

Roy Shepard saw an osprey fishing in the lake on the morning of October 25. He has also seen them in the spring.

Water lilies: "A remarkably fixed sighting. The longest Monterey memory in our family attests that for at least sixty years there has been a small patch of yellow water lilies at precisely the same place in one of the coves on the north shore toward the east end of Lake Garfield. Lowering of the lake in winter does not seem to diminish their presence. I check them out every summer and think of them as the British think of the ravens at the Tower of London. Should these water lilies disappear, Monterey would cease to be." (Roy Shepard)

Bear at Meadowlark Camp: When her dog began barking early in the morning of October 26, Marie Burkhart looked out, thought she saw a raccoon treed by the dog, and then realized it was a bear. By the light of the moon, she saw it come down, wander around, go up the tree again several times when the dog got too insistent, and at one point, even come up on the porch. It was clearly an adult black bear.

Trout coming up for air: Susan and David McAllester have several semi-domesticated trout in the pond near their house. One day in early November, the fish could be seen eating voraciously, and then they stopped completely. For the following week, the could be seen in very shallow water, their back fins exposed, especially at the place where the brook flows into the pond. After a good rain, they disappeared into the deep water. One theory to explain this behavior is that after the heavy fall of leaves into the pond, the bacteria feeding on the leaves consumed much of the oxygen in the water and the trout had to come close to the surface to breathe until the rain and a stronger inflow restored the oxygen balance.

We are eager to record more observations of Monterey's wildlife!

— Dean Amidon
David McAllester
Bob Volckhausen

FROM THE STATE HOUSE
Recycling

Well, it's about time the rest of the state has decided to latch onto the recycling fever that we here in the Berkshires contracted a long time ago. This new found statewide trend toward pulling recyclables out of the waste stream has taken on the legislative identity of a comprehensive packaging initiative.

The current recycling laws in Massachusetts are a start, but more needs to be done. The citizens have demonstrated that they desperately want to recycle and are even willing to pay more for environmentally sound products, but they can do only so much.

This new law, which I wholeheartedly support and plan to do everything I can to get passed, will attack the problem at its roots by forcing the private sector to face up to its responsibility to recycle and produce environmentally safe packaging. The underlying draw of this measure is to make a progressive move toward recycling by creating a market for recyclable goods.

Basically, what this legislation will do is mandate in increments what percentage of commercial packaging used in the Commonwealth must be made of recyclable material. According to the bill, 30% of packaging used in Massachusetts must come from recyclable material by 1996, with the share rising to 40% by 1999 and 50% by 2002.

Without the commitment of the business community — whether it gets done voluntarily or is forced by this initiative — the general public's desire to "do the right thing" will never be realized.

— Representative Christopher J. Hodgkins

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SMOKEFILLED ROOM REPORT

You may have noticed a slight change in the appearance of the *Monterey News* last month. The November issue was the first to be typeset in-house on our new Macintosh LC computer and Texas Instruments Microlaser Plus printer.

We bought the computer and printer after finding early this year that we were operating at a deficit. This was news. Readers have been more generous than ever this year, and the *News*, now a bona fide non-profit corporation, has long been in the black. Our discovery, that the balance of cash in and out had begun to tip, came at a time when we had money in the bank and felt confident of continued strong support. This gave us time to consider solutions. Typesetting has always been our major routine expense, and the computer offered relief on that score, as well as a chance to streamline the editor's job in many helpful ways. Alice was willing to learn the ropes. The job was to choose the tool (not the easiest thing for us pen-and-pad types) and get used to the whole idea.

Our major asset until this development was a homemade light box that might have brought $15 on the Trading Post if you gave it a few Saturdays. The Board has agreed never to sell, rent or even give out our mailing list, and that's been about it for substantial assets. We've always had this trim, unencumbered corporate body, mostly heart. We know our real value is the paper itself — the readers, writers and loyal Montereyans who put it together every month, the archive that's accumulating. But we faced a creeping deficit, not a good time to wax philosophical. So we bought a computer. (Actually, we bought two, but the first was a bum deal, and we were glad to send it back for a refund. But that's another story.) Just wrote that check, knowing of two sources for loans on excellent terms, if we should fall short of cash before the fund drive next spring.

I went to see it: four small objects, the printer and monitor/hard drive barely larger than milk crates, the keyboard quite flat and only a few inches deep, the "mouse" made to fit your hand. I didn't pick up the components, but they have to be heavy, they're so dense with information and ability. Smooth, cream-colored surfaces, and a screen alight with the richest imaginable cerulean blue, all sharp as a chisel. A display called PYRO! appears automatically on the screen if nothing's entered for a while, every letter a different bright color, followed by (along with? can't remember, must have been a dizzy moment) scattered colorful starbursts. It's there to prevent damage from one long display burning itself into the screen. It's also telling imagery: the computer as aerobic dancer, with a glittering, intense smile, who just can't stop. Over the next several months, we'll be training him, her or it to do things our way.

— Peter Murkett

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OUR TOWN
Monterey, pop. 805

As I bumble around Berkshire County, I often hear people say something like, "Oh, you're from Monterey — things are different there, People work together and good things happen in Monterey." I don't recognize the sweet vale of tranquility which some of these people are hinting about, but it is true that our town has a certain reputation and is seen as a special place, creating its own personality from the scraps of good feelings and accomplishments — the friendly litter of many civic and other community happenings over the years.

Usually I will write in this space about official and specific problems and proposals related to planning and other town issues. But now I just want to marvel about all of us being citizens of this Town of Monterey and how many different interests and life-styles we represent. On some issues we can understand one another. If our own interests are not too strong on a matter, we may even be convinced by discussion; otherwise we just hold up our blue cards at town meeting and settle it by majority vote. But we've got a system, and some good fortune, to be able to tolerate one another. We can often appreciate other people who do things for the town which we couldn't do, or wouldn't really even want to do. The town is a place for everyone who is willing to use a blue card, not a gun or fists. Even for part-time residents, living elsewhere most of the year, who ask for a symbolic piece of our blue card as we consider the actions which affect us all.

The essential idea of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* is the uniqueness of each individual. As Wilder writes in a preface to the play, "Every person...has lived an unbroken succession of unique occasions. 'I love you,' 'I rejoice,' 'I suffer,' have been said and felt billions of times, and never twice the same." But it is easier for some of us, as it was for Wilder in spinning a tale of Grover's Corner, New Hampshire, to appreciate the hopes and fears of others when they live around us in a small town.

So what might make Monterey just a bit special even among the small towns of New England which claim active home rule and broad citizen participation? Why do so many people have a positive reaction when our town is mentioned?

We have, I think, a more broadly based system of citizen participation in our governmental and related activities than many towns. I hope that we will resist calls for appointment of a town administrator. That move would hurt our present success, and should be considered only if we fail to run the town competently with our well-defined mix of paid and volunteer citizen employees.

But many of the good aspects of Monterey are only incidentally associated with civic government. "Monterey Lights the Way" showed that conservation and joint endeavors were possible and appropriate in an age of plenty. Festivals, artistic events and contributions, and the *Monterey News* brought people together. Sporting events and the parks benefit from the tireless work of volunteers. Religious activities have provided a quiet support to the spiritual life of the town. The water company long ago and the fire company more recently have overcome the inertia which prevents good ideas from becoming realities — the fire hall provides a place for community events, and both organizations are maintained through the efforts of many people. The lake districts serve in those areas of concentrated development. (Will there soon be volunteers to work on a sewer district?) Many other special interests and life-styles enrich our community. Seasonal dwellers have long brought special talents, alternative gender partnerships and other social and professional experiments to add to the variety of Monterey life.

If we truly have a good town and community, I submit that the credit goes to each of us for celebrating, as Thornton Wilder says, "the attempt to find a value above all price for the smallest events in our daily life."

— Wayne Burkhart

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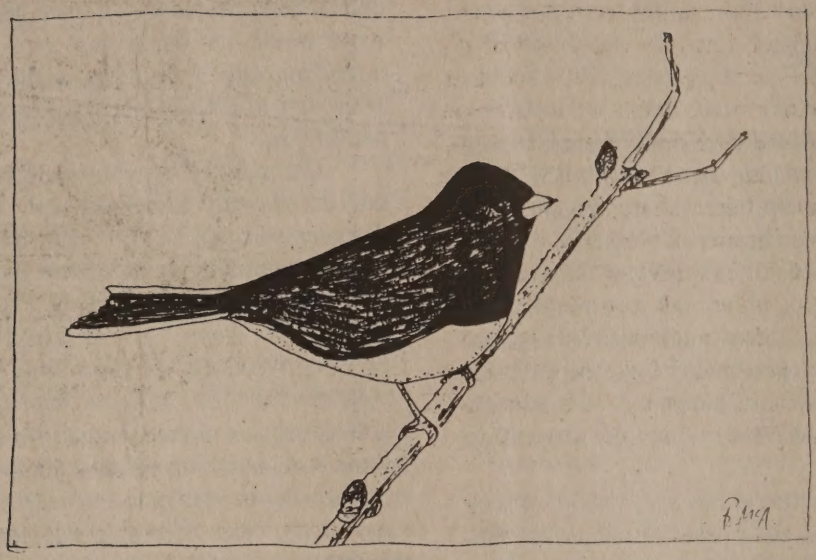

JUNCOS IN THE FALL

At this time of year it is necessary to be brave and strong, also prepared. Winter is coming, there will be no more Indian summer. Animals of many species have made their preparations: Many have left this area for warmer wintering grounds, many have snuggled down in warm mud under some insulating body of water. Those of us who are still here, still up and about, have a kinship with each other. We have been through this New England winter before. It's not easy, but we have done it, so we feel there's a good chance we'll make it again. We focus on this likelihood and it gives us courage; we also focus on each other.

I see the tall, graceful turkeys in our orchard and they always make me think of 1620, that awful winter when the Pilgrims came with no experience, and practically no chance. The survivors learned quickly, maybe desperately, and by the next cold season they had warm houses, stored food, local friends, and confidence. They felt so good they made a feast day and celebration, but then they had another wicked winter and the next year did not feel so much like celebrating.

My own feelings as winter comes must be almost unrelated to those which overwhelmed my Mayflower ancestors, my English New England predecessors. I love seasonal change, the adaptations and responses I see all around me. I can stay right in my orchard and feel I have travelled thousands of miles because all around me there is such variation in life-style, according to season. This is true of myself, too. My life-style changes with the seasons and puts me in a position to notice different things at different times of year.

In spring and summer, in the orchard, I inspect leaves and blossoms and fruit. I carry tools, dig, mow and spray. The turkeys come by and I wonder if they have filled up on strawberries. I don't think about 1620, particularly. Now when the turkeys come I watch them approach our small flock of chickens and they remind me of the handsome native people who survived these seasons long before my Mayflower ancestors arrived, sick and helpless.

Our chickens don't like the turkeys. Little Gully, the speckled white rooster, runs at the four tall creatures and drives them off. He goes back to his hens, talking nervously, scritches in the grass and leaves and calls them over: "Cuck-cuck-cuck-cuck-cuck-cuck!" The turkeys withdraw to the strawberry bed and remove the mulch with big, sure strokes.

Down by the house we have scritching, too, mostly from the winter flock of juncos. They are changing over from a summer diet of insects, seeds and berries to winter fare, which consists of a few dried berries and many seeds. After the grey squirrels have made their morning plunder at our bird feeder, the birds come. The juncos seems most at home on the ground, at any time of year. Like turkeys and chickens, they have strong feet for walking, hopping and scritching. Their foraging gait has been called "double-scratching" and looks from a distance like two smart hops up in the air. Even before they can fly, young juncos have developed long toe bones so they can run from the nest (which is usually on the ground) if threatened.

We see the juncos foraging here in the early afternoon, especially, but I know that they and sparrows and other finches need to stoke up toward the end

of the day also in order to survive the bitter winter nights. I have seen them in a cold wind, their feathers ruffled, working away on the ground. Now and then they stop and drop their white bellies down to cover their feet and legs, to conserve heat for a few seconds.

Some people call the juncos "snowbirds," maybe because of their snowy white underparts so like the winter woods, with slate above. Edward Howe Forbush, eloquent State Ornithologist for Massachusetts in the early 1900s, referred to the juncos as "leaden skies above, snow below." Maybe people call them snowbirds because they are active in the snow, on the ground. Forbush wrote of juncos taking a snowbath, like a dustbath, and Thoreau has this entry in his *Journal:*

December 1, 1863. Slate-colored snowbirds flit before me in the path, feeding on the seeds in the snow, the countless little brown seeds that begin to be scattered over the snow, so much more obvious to bird and beast. A hundred kinds of indigenous grain are harvested now; broadcast upon the surface of the snow. Thus at a critical season these seeds are shaken down onto a clean white napkin, unmixed with dirt and rubbish, and off this the little pensioners pick them. Their clean table is thus spread a few inches or feet above the ground. Will wonder become extinct in me? Shall I become insensible as a fungus?

At this changeover time of year, when I start feeling like a fungus, I go outside for a little seasonal observation, local cyclical time travel. The leaves are off the trees, letting light into the woods. Juncos make a lively racket with their double-scratching, and turkeys watch us and our chickens from a little distance.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Creation locked
in ironstruck cold
is ore to smoulder
turn green, turn gold.

— Susan McAllester

Stones
Do they speak
To the upstart trees?

Wind sweeps through leaves
Branches carry current down
The slight bend of meaty stem
Into dark roots underground
That rub some stone they hug

Root cracks rock
Minerals to limbs. The patient stones
Rise from below ambitious trees speaking
Thrust of trunk branch leaf
Rain sweeps the cheek of rock
Pulls a bit of stone skin
Soft now, black
To earth
Then up again long after
Into trees
The oldest everyday things alive

— Peter Murkett

SLOW FOUNTAIN

By intermittent gains the patient roots'
Tender tips (but iron in their might),
Sort their searching way, persistent, mute,
To bring the earth's deep secrets to the light.

The metallurgic chemistries of trees,
By stages imperceptible and sure,
Blend elements diverse in thaw and freeze,
And fix them in some newer ligature.

Now this exuberant mix begins to rise
To take its part in photosynthesis,
And every integrant will change its guise
And transubstantiate to edifice.

The metals lend their strength to cellulose
As stem, and leafing out, as fruit and flower,
But slow entropic forces will dispose
That what goes up must come down in a shower.

So leaf and insect, nest and twig and branch,
End their seasons, join the effluent fall,
And endlessly increasing avalanche,
For more the spate the more the tree is tall.

Then finally, the trunk itself must yield
Back to the ground the earth's constituent parts,
And in that ever richer nutrient field
Many another living fountain starts.

— David P. McAllester

ENIGMA

My first is in sweet, and also in sour.
My second in apple, not in the core.
My third not in yogurt, it is in nuts.
My fourth is in taste as well as in touch.
My last you will find in cranberry pie,
As you search for the answer to "What am I?"

Find the letters that spell the answer.

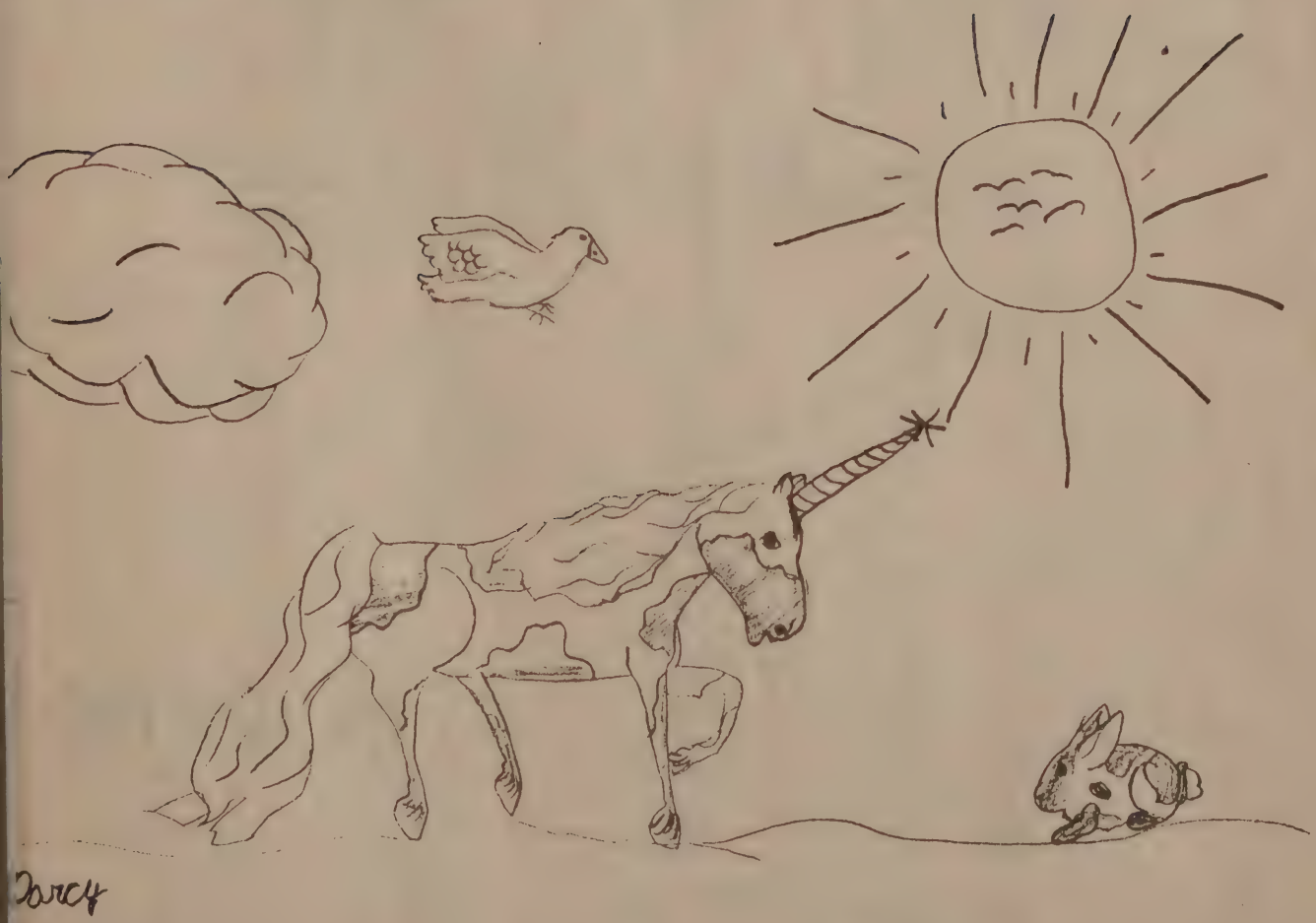
— Eleanor Kimberley

Answer on page 18

HAIKU

The wind is blowing:
Autumn leaves whirling in space -
Heaven and earth blend.

— Ann M. LaVallee



LEAVING

Swift as the lash of an otter's eye
Quick ruffles flash on the pond's
White sky, tiny shudders of air
Fanning out to nowhere. The waters
Flicker and ripple, subside,
Then die to glass,
To silence.
But they have said something,
These moving whispers of wilder weather
On the way.

Loons and grebes, reading air, restless,
Wake early at morrow for a last minnow
Before running on the water,
Lifting off,
Leaving.
Northwest,
Real waves rumple the lakes,
Fling white flecks
At granite shores.

— Harold Corbin
(from *Counting: I*, 1985)

CHRISTMAS ROAD

A road made for Christmas
Trees spangled with white,
A house in the distance
With candletips bright...

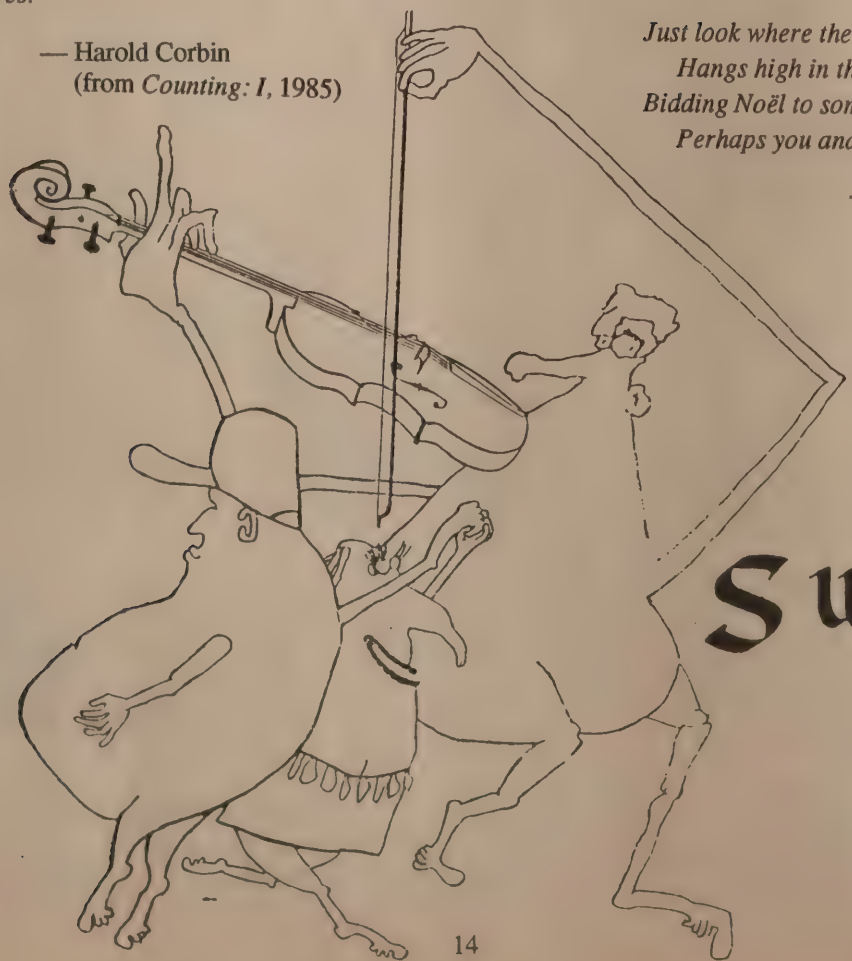
How soft falls the snow here,
A miracle, this,
The Snow Maiden's magic
Her feathery kiss.

Now we see in the arms
Of a tree in the bend,
Where a bird house in snow
Makes a crêche overhead,

Our wee Infant Jesus,
All nestled in white;
The Saints walk at Christmas
And with them bring light,

Just look where the Christ Child
Hangs high in that tree,
Bidding Noël to someone...
Perhaps you and me.

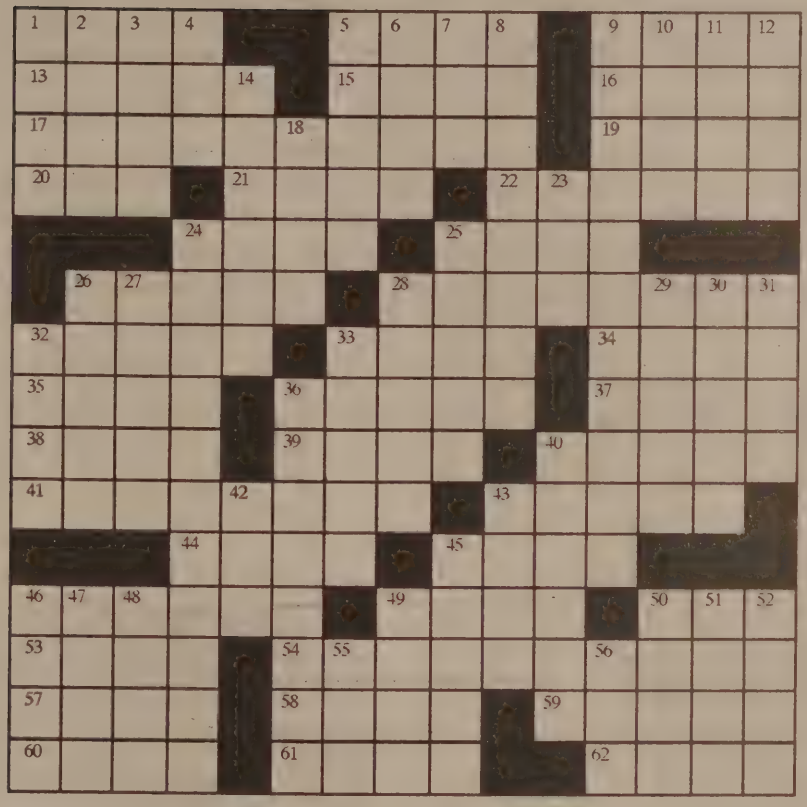
— Sue Moody



Swing!

HATS IN THE RING

By Ted Tchack



ACROSS

1 Loving
5 Semester
9 Silent screen star
13 Use
15 Cookie
16 Mideast land
17 MAYBE IN, MAYBE OUT
19 Not right
20 English town
21 Roman writer
22 Tell
24 Cat
25 Metal
26 Shame
28 Kind of participle
32 Beverage
33 Kind of lockup
34 Notion
35 Seed cover
36 Teems
37 Church area
38 Deposit
39 Top
40 A Kennedy
41 Cushions
43 Knock down
44 Future acorns
45 Name
46 Egyptian deity
49 Small lake
50 Foot
53 Fish
54 HE'S IN
57 Peruvian
58 Amor
59 Andrea____
60 Small mounds
61 Omit!
62 Gnat, e.g.

DOWN

1 Renown
2 Egg-shaped
3 None(slang)
4 MIV II
5 Bookies
6 Slang suffix
7 Radiation measure
8 Marina features
9 HE'S IN
10 Location
11 Float
12 Put up
14 Tree
18 Money
23 Eur. nation
24 HE'S IN
25 African nation
26 Courtyards
27 Seethes
28 Instruments
29 Western state
30 Not once
31 Celt
32 Belt
33 Dark beers
36 Boxed
40 Escaped
42 Crew need
43 NOT IN
45 Scandinavian
46 Landed
47 Not yours
48 In the past
49 Billiards
50 Untainted
51 Sign at a sale
52 Question starter
55 Before
56 Hit on the head

Answers on page 18

WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

Peter Murkett

This is the story of a craftsman who keeps slipping over the boundaries of his profession into the humanities. Peter grew up in a banking family in Middletown, Connecticut, then Norwich, was accepted at Columbia University, but opted for an interim year out of school. He was drawn to California, where a Pomfret classmate lived, and joined a theater group, the South Coast Repertory Company, where he served as a technician in lighting, stage design and carpentry. Then, after a year at Columbia, he took a leave of absence "which is still in effect." He found the fascination of New York City more compelling than the academic world.

His theater connections landed him a job in the theater department at Sarah Lawrence, where he decided after a year that serving illusion with his craftsmanship was not the direction he wanted. "I wanted the piece itself to be the object." He found a job in a small woodworking shop and then started making furniture on his own in a rented storefront. "I was inspired by early American design, especially by the Shakers. I had no formal training; there were no woodworking schools that I knew of. I just looked at books, found things that I liked and followed my nose."

It is Peter's style to share ideas and he soon was part of a circle of six independent woodworkers inspiring each other in the creation of cabinets, tables and other useful things. Two of them, Peter and Charles Caffal, decided they would rather be in the country and they began looking for a place in which to live and work closer to the materials of their trade. Charles had friends in the Berkshires who helped them establish the North Family Joiners in a spare building in back of the Wyman lumberyard in Hartsville.

Peter and Charles had some of their work for sale in the shop of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The Museum repeatedly commissioned them to make reproductions of Shaker woodworking. They also had reproductions for sale at the Shaker Village in Hancock and the Shaker Museum in Chatham. They were featured in an article in the *New Yorker* in March, 1973 by Janet Malcolm. Of their original work, she said, "The work of the North Family Joiners has a quality of refinement that differentiates it from the work of the Shakers and allies it, paradoxically, with the products of 'the cultivated tradition.'"

By this time, Peter's thoughts were turning to home-making as well as woodworking. He had met Michèle Miller at a New Year's party at Catamount, and they were married in 1978. They looked all up and down the North Road for land and finally found a beautiful lot, all woods, on Dry Hill. First they cleared land and built a cabin for immediate quarters, then they started a house, a miracle of craftsmanship and imaginative design. The cabin became a workshop.

They were without electricity for the first five years, so Peter specialized in work that could be done without it: small things like his elegant and ingenious clocks. Some of them are philosophical, bearing on their faces not numbers, but the twelve-letter admonition, F E S T I N A L E N T E (make haste slowly).

Peter and Michèle soon found ways to participate in the community life of Monterey. Michèle put

"Bone" chair, carved and painted to suggest bones

her formidable energy to work on the Roads and Machinery Committee and on Monterey's first steps toward recycling. Peter, currently clerk of the Appeals Board and Secretary of the Board of Directors of the *Monterey News*, has been a member of the Fire Company and was part of the coalition of intelligences that made the Monterey Energy Project such a success. He also created an energy project at home, producing 125V of direct current from a water-powered generator. He gives the details in his article, "Running a Shop on a Thimbleful of Power," in *Fine Wood Working* magazine. The key to the system is storage, a bank of ten deep-cycle lead/acid batteries. The motivation is a life-style ideal "of independent power cleanly generated by wind or water, renewable stuff tangibly linked to the natural world." At the end of the article, he says, "I am far less of a zealot now than when I was starting out and what keeps me in my 75-watt shop these days has less to do with ecological principle than the hands-on routine of working wood with a sort of one-man efficiency from log to finished product. Some limitations only wear one down, but the right sort offers freedom from distractions. If I had to do it over I certainly would."

There is a two-story workshop now, with factory-made as well as home-made electrical power, but in "Craftsmanship Versus the Machine Age," in *Fine Wood Working*, Peter says, "In nature, any leaf on a tree is perfect in the sense that there is no other leaf that it could be. There is no pattern-perfect leaf for it to duplicate precisely, or fall short of, to become merely an okay leaf. The perfection of nature is a matter of wholeness and integrity.... Making furniture that reflects this aspect of the natural world is the challenge beyond precision and control. It contains an element of unpredictability. Hand-made Windsors are well suited to meet the challenge."

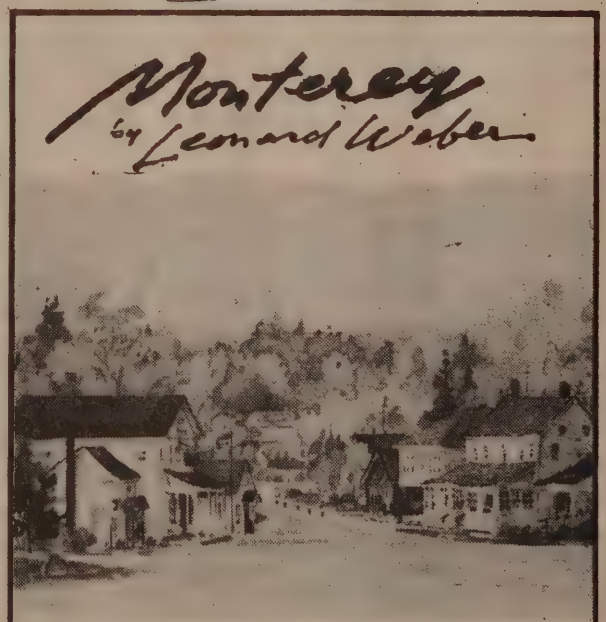
The Murkett/Miller family expanded in 1988. Riley, born in August that year in Paraguay, came home in October. He now takes a delighted interest in both the kitchen and the workshop.

The idea of wholeness makes room for the literary aspect of Peter's work. He made a narrative clock, telling the story of a fictional great-grandfather's feeling for the sunset sky, and a poetic clock, with the lines on page 12 of this issue incised on the plaster wall around it. A garden gate, made of many different kinds of wood, bears the inscription: Root and branch/ Grip the dirt/ And scrub the air/ Circling earth/ Round trip/ Enter anywhere/ You are here.

Though Peter is self-taught, his impulse to share his interests has led him to be a teacher as well. He has taken on apprentices on occasion, and given a one-person tutorial to someone who wanted to learn to make chairs by doing one at Hidden Valley Ranch. He has taught demonstration workshops, and for the past two summers taught chairmaking at the Country Workshops in North Carolina. And now he has an outlet with a permanent display at the Tokonoma shop in the Jenifer House Commons in Great Barrington.

Another outlet, this time a literary one, was created by Peter himself, with Michèle's help at her Boiler Room Café in the Buggywhip Factory in Southfield. Every month in the late '80s, you could combine a gourmet meal with a reading of poetry or a chapter of someone's novel in progress. It is clear that the verbal idea as well as communication in clean, fluid wood design will continue to be a part of Peter's life.

— David P. McAllester



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ANSWERS TO PUZZLE

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A	V	A	I	L	■	O	R	E	O	■	I	R	A	N
M	A	R	I	O	C	U	O	M	O	■	L	E	F	T
E	L	Y	■	C	A	T	O	■	R	E	L	A	T	E
■	■	■	P	U	S	S	■	Z	I	N	C	■	■	■
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S	I	L	T	■	A	C	M	E	■	E	T	H	E	L
H	A	S	S	O	C	K	S	■	F	L	O	O	R	■
■	■	■	O	A	K	S	■	N	O	U	N	■	■	■
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I	N	C	A	■	E	R	O	S	■	D	O	R	I	A
T	E	E	S	■	D	E	L	E	■	■	P	E	S	T

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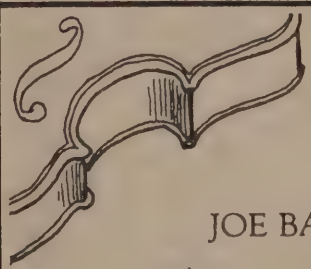

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MARGARET MCLAUGHLIN

Miss Margaret "Marjorie" McLaughlin, 82, of New Marlboro Road, died November 5 at Willowood Nursing & Retirement Facility in Great Barrington.

She was born in New York City on March 17, 1909, daughter of Frank A. and Ida Lucinda Hummel McLaughlin. She was educated at St. Agatha School in New York City, Sarah Lawrence College and the Chicago Art Institute.

Miss McLaughlin owned and ran the former Gallery House in Chicago, an art gallery with emphasis on works of young artists living in that area. After a fire destroyed the gallery in 1939, she moved to Monterey, where she bought and restored a 1790 house from which she ran an extensive interior design business. She retired in 1978.

Active in civic and art activities, she was an associate member of the Congregational Church and was an elected trustee of the Monterey Library for 24 years. She designed the General Knox Historical Museum, adjacent to the library.

She leaves her friend, Miss Edith Wilson of Monterey, with whom she made her home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Monterey Library in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington.

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GORDON T. BOWLES

Gordon Townsend Bowles, 87, of Wallace Hall Road, died November 10. He was the oldest member of South Berkshire Monthly Meeting of Friends, and one of its founders.

He was born in Tokyo, Japan on June 25, 1904, son of Quaker missionaries Gilbert and Minnie Pickett Bowles, and graduated from the American School there. He earned a B.A. at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and a doctorate in anthropology at Harvard University.

Mr. Bowles began his teaching of physical and cultural anthropology at the University of Hawaii, and he subsequently taught at Harvard, Tokyo, Columbia and Syracuse Universities. He did field research in West China, North India, Hawaii and Japan.

From 1942 to 1947, he served with the State Department, becoming chief of the Japan-Korea section. In 1946, he served as a member and State Department advisor to the United States Education Mission to Japan. In 1948, he became executive for the first programs of Fulbright exchanges of professors and research scholars. While teaching in Tokyo from 1951 to 1958, he was associate managing director of the International House of Japan.

In 1958, Mr. Bowles was awarded the Imperial Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan for his work in advancing international relations and the development of anthropology in Japan.

Mr. Bowles served on the Corporation of the American Friends Service Committee and as a trustee of the Woolman Hill Conference Center in Deerfield, Massachusetts. After his retirement from Syracuse University in 1972, he became a full-time resident of Monterey.

He leaves his wife, the former Jane Thomas, whom he married in 1932 in Nanking, China; two daughters, Mrs. Barbara B. Swann of Monterey and Mrs. Anne B. Pipal of Alfred, New York; a brother, Dr. Herbert E. Bowles of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and a granddaughter, Jennifer Swann, of Monterey.

The memorial Meeting for Worship will be held at the Monterey United Church of Christ on Saturday, December 14 at 2:00 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to the Woolman Hill Conference Center, Keets Road, Deerfield, Massachusetts 01342, or to the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad, Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230.

PERSONAL NOTES

Bravo! to **Lanny Lanoue**, who graduated with honors from Riverside School of Aeronautics in Utica, New York on October 18. With a 95.6 average, Lanny received his Air Frame and Power Plant Technician's Certificate, with both structure and engine expertise, and received his pilot's license as well. A long-time dream for Lanny, our hats off to him for achieving it, and in such fine fashion!

And, our congratulations to 1st Lt. **John F. Eidmann III** on completing flight school. John received his wings as a Marine Aviator in Beeville, Texas on October 18. He will be flying a Marine Harrier, and, after training at Cherry Point, North Carolina, will be stationed in Yuma, Arizona. His dad, John II, pinned on his wings at the ceremony, and his mom, Nance, girlfriend, Michelle and cousin Becky and family were all in attendance, while Cindy, Jim and Elizabeth Deloy all cheered from Monterey. Good work, John!

Monterey silversmiths **Mike** and **Maureen Banner** recently were awarded one of the top prizes for excellence in design at the Philadelphia Crafts Show sponsored by the Women's Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Many Montereyans wear the Banners' beautiful earrings, but they also make teapots, candlesticks, enamelled boxes and other gorgeous and useful objects.

Monterey Postmaster **Walter Parks** was spotted reading the book *Gregory, the Terrible Eater* to **Susan Anderson's** Kindergarten class. Walter was a "celebrity reader" for the class as part of a statewide Salute to RIF. RIF, which stands for Reading is Fundamental, is a national, non-profit program that encourages children to read by allowing them to choose new books to keep for their own. The New Marlboro-Monterey RIF program is coordinated by **Laurie Shaw, Anne Moulton** and **Ann Higgins**.

Our best wishes to long-time Monterey residents **Robert** and **Violet Hardisty**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a party attended by sixty friends and family members at the James Modolo VFW Post. The Hardistys were married on October 18, 1941 at Tyringham Union Church. Grandparents of two, they are retired after 26 years as caretakers of the M. Peter Schweitzer estate on Route 23, and living on Silver Street in Great Barrington. They are active members of the Monterey Grange.

Hats off the **Nadine Hastedt**, who was elected president of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Berkshire County, Inc. at their annual meeting in Pittsfield on September 26. A residential mortgage officer at the Canaan National Bank, Nadine is also the current treasurer of the Great Barrington Lions Club and served on the allocations committee of Berkshire United Way from 1987 to 1989.

Wow! Monterey's ace golfer, **Dean Amidon**, recorded a hole in one at Wyantenuck Country Club in Great Barrington on October 24. Dean knocked his 5-iron shot into the cup on the 144-yard 11th hole. "Everyone should hit a hole in one in their lifetime," claims an elated Dean. "Oh, what a feeling!"

And let's hear it for the Mt. Everett girls varsity soccer team, the first girls team to win a Western Massachusetts tournament soccer game in the school's history. After achieving second place in Division 2 regular season play, they went on to win 1-0 in tournament play over Mohawk Regional of Shelburne Falls. They lost the next round to seeded Lee, but not without a valiant fight, and ended their season with a best-ever record of 8-7-2. Our congratulations to Monterey students **Allison Delmolino** and **Tracy Wood**, who were valued members of this year's successful Lady Eagles team. Keep up the good work!

Congratulations to **Tasha Grotz** who has enjoyed much success as a member of the Dartmouth women's rugby team. The team has secured the 1991 Ivy League championship title and is still in New England tournament play.

Our best to **Hedy Craven**, who will be spending some time with her son and family on the west coast. Her new address is c/o Eric F. Craven, 1050 Northpoint Street, Apt. 501, San Francisco, California 94109.

Very happy birthday wishes to **Stefan Grotz** on December 1, to **Matthew Gloyd O'Connell** on December 2, to **Elizabeth Deloy**, **Walter Andersen** and **Karen Schulze** on December 5, to **Simon Spagnoletti** on December 7, to **Mike Mielke III** on December 8, to **Natasha Grotz** on December 12, and to **Hedy Craven** and **Donald Amstead** on December 25. Hoping everyone had a lot to be thankful for on Thanksgiving, and warm Holiday Greetings to all.

Any news, birthdays you'd like to share? Please don't hesitate to call me at 528-4519, or jot down your items and drop them in the mail to me, just Route 23. Your contributions are appreciated!

— Stephanie Grotz

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Harry & Valborg Proudman
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William H. Everett
Willard Walker
Arnold & Janet Garber

CALENDAR

Thursday, December 5 — Planning Board public hearing. 7:30 p.m. at the town hall. For more information, see Notice of Public Hearing elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday, December 7 — Monterey-New Marlboro PTA Holiday Fair, featuring crafts a bake sale and a raffle. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Saturday, December 14 — SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults $4, children $1 to dance until intermission. Information: 528-9385.

Tuesday, December 17 — Free Blood Pressure Clinic. 9:00-10:30 a.m., downstairs at the town hall.

Sunday, December 22 — 6th Annual Christmas Party/Winter Solstice Celebration sponsored by the Monterey Fire Company. 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the firehouse.

Saturday, December 28 — No SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE.

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The Monterey Fire Company invites the entire community to

THE SIXTH ANNUAL

Christmas Party/

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

at the firehouse

Sunday, December 22, 3-5 p.m.

featuring

David Grover — Christmas songs
Robbins-Zust Marionettes — "The Three Little Pigs"
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Christmas Tree/Christmas Presents
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We invite your submissions of news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. All editorial material should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For questions about editorial material, call the editor at 528-3128.

ADVERTISING

One-inch ad (1" x 3") ..... $ 2.50
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Three-inch ad (3" x 3") 7.50
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Back cover ads are double the above prices, and these positions are subject to availability. All ads should be submitted camera-ready and must fit into one of our standard spaces.
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Drawings in this issue by Maureen Banner, Bob Johnson, Bonner McAllester and Darcy Whitten.

MONTEREY NEWS
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